

DEAD END



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DEAD

Shirou's superhuman abilities become increasingly out of control as he mows down the competition—literally! He seems unstoppable, but is he powerful enough to save Parrot and Gips from the menacing miscreation everyone affectionately calls Stitch Head?

Enter Nana. Is this quirky and sweet girl one of Shirou's enigmatic "acquaintances from the past"? Shirou may be able to escape Stitch Head's carnage-filled pursuit, but will Nana join his assorted team of amnesiacs? Perhaps, but there are just eleven tiny problems Shirou will need to get rid of first...

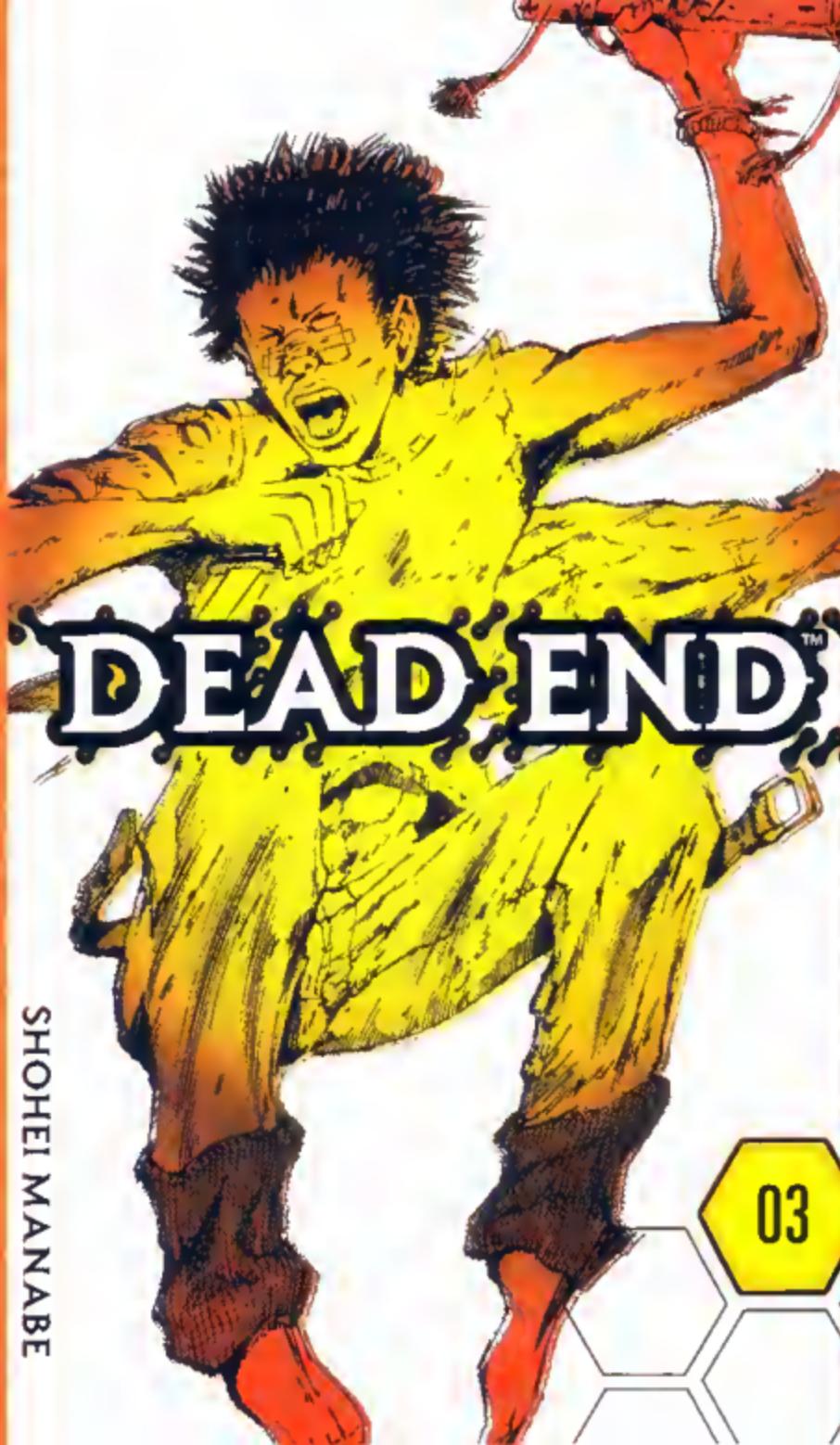


END

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www.TOKYOPOP.com



SHOHEI MANABE

03

DEAD END

03





DEAD END

VOLUME 3

BY

SHOHEI MANABE



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Dead End Vol. 3
created by Shohei Manabe

Translation - Christine Schilling
English Adaptation - Jay Antani
Copy Editor - Wendy Hunter
Retouch and Lettering - Chris Anderson
Production Artist - Lucas Rivera
Cover Design - Gary Shum

Editor - Paul Morrissey
Digital Imaging Manager - Chris Buford
Production Managers - Jennifer Miller and Mutsumi Miyazaki
Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
Publisher and E.I.C. - Mike Kiley
President and C.O.O. - John Parker
C.E.D. - Stuart Levy

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TOKYOPOP Inc.
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

E-mail: info@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

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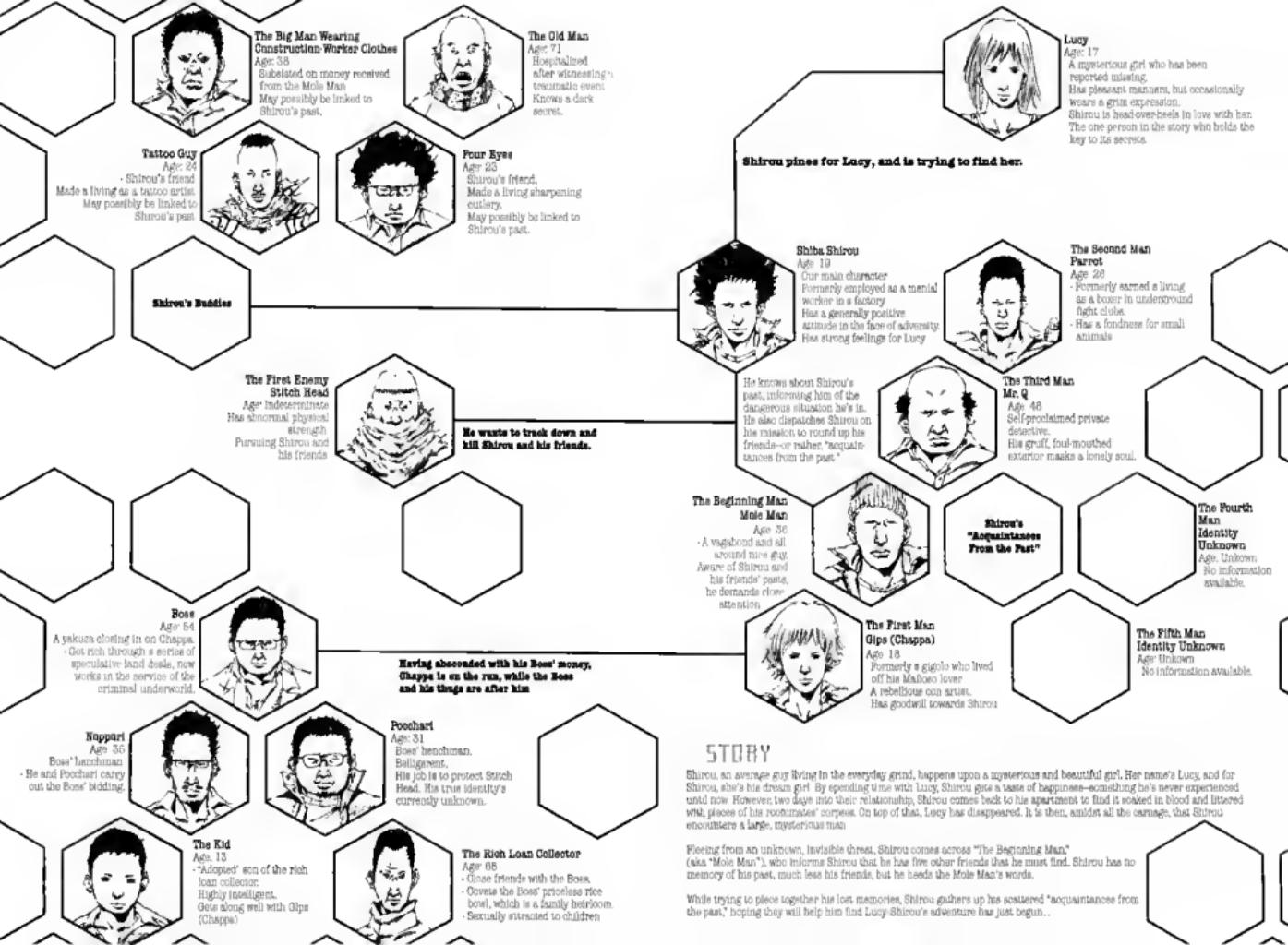
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PART
11 SHIROU











FINE! HOW
DO WE KILL
IT?!

I'LL GET
TO THAT
LATER

MUCH
OBLIGED.

YOUR
IMMEDIATE
CONCERN
IS STAYING
ALIVE.

BUT WHO THE
HELL IS HE? AND
WHAT DOES HE
WANT?

YOU CAN'T.
SHIROU CAN.

WHAT
DO YOU
KNOW?

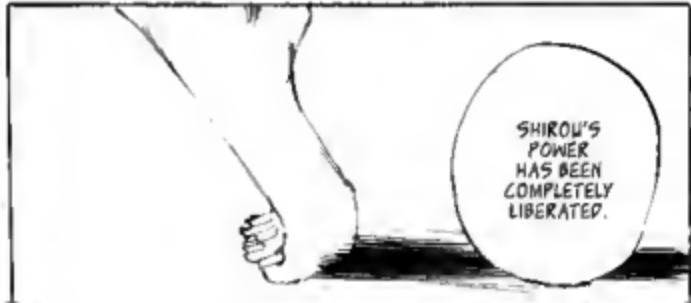
ON HE'S
FULL OF
SURPRISES

COME
AGAIN?

NEITHER YOU
NOR PARROT
STANDS
A CHANCE
AGAINST
STITCH HEAD
WITHOUT
SHIROU'S HELP.

SHIROU HAS
SUPERHUMAN
POWERS.

THAT PIPSQUEAK
GOT THE SHIT
KICKED OUTTA
HIM BY PARROT!
HOW CAN HE
POSSIBLY BEAT
THIS FREAK?!









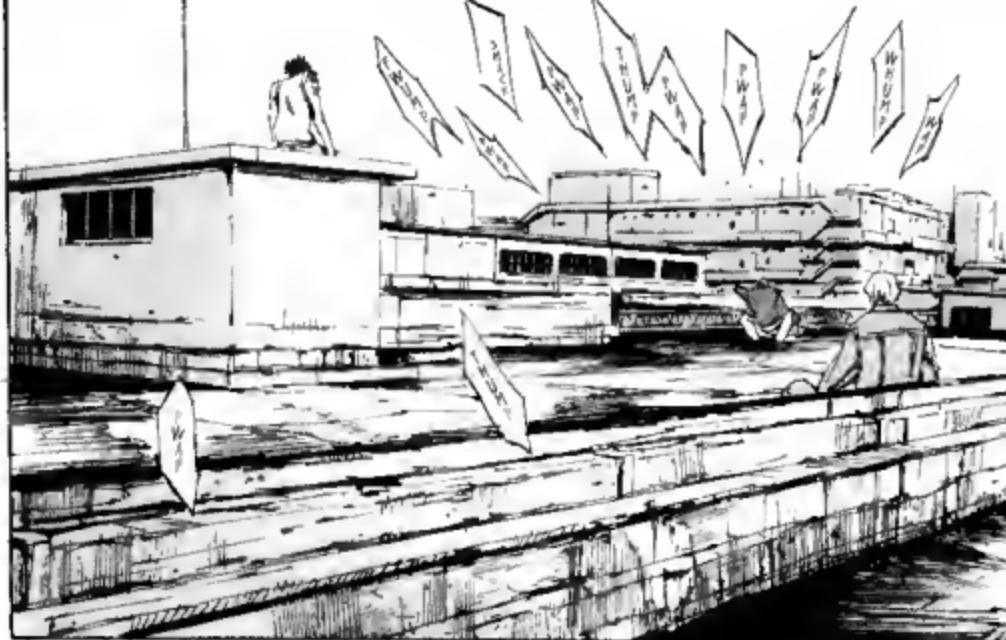


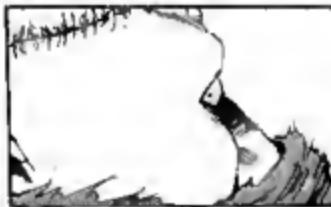








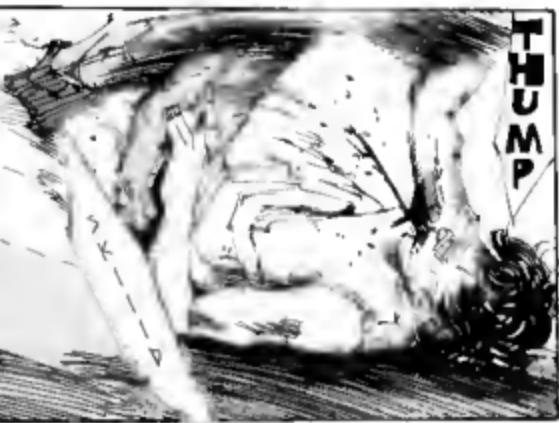






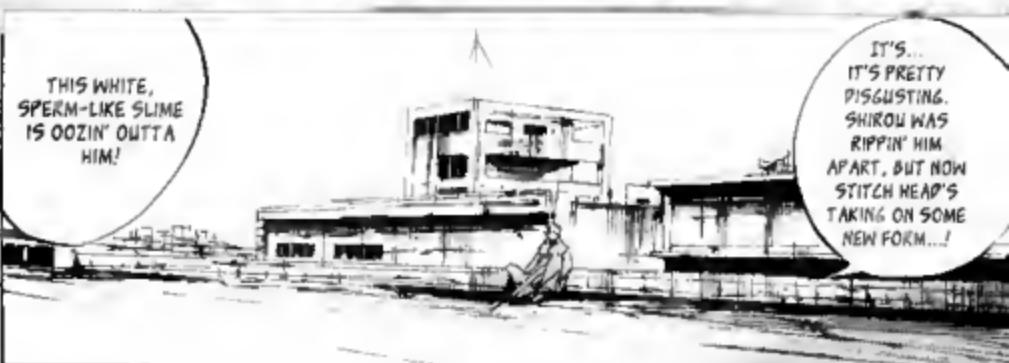












AN ATTACK
MECHANISM THAT
ANY POISONOUS
PREDATOR MIGHT
EMPLOY WHEN
IT'S THREATENED

'CEPT
THIS
GUNK IS
BEYOND
LETHAL

THAT "SPERM-
LIKE" SLIME IS A
WARNING

WHAT THE
HELL'S
HAPPENIN'??





WHEN A HUMAN
SENSES THAT
AN ATTACKER IS
STRONGER THAN
HE IS . . .



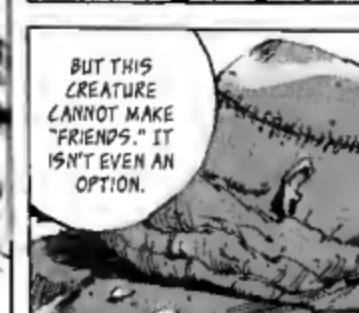
... HE'LL
MANUFACTURE
DEFENSE TOXINS
TO WARD
OFF FURTHER
ATTACKS.

WHILE
NAVIGATING HIS
ESCAPE ROUTE...

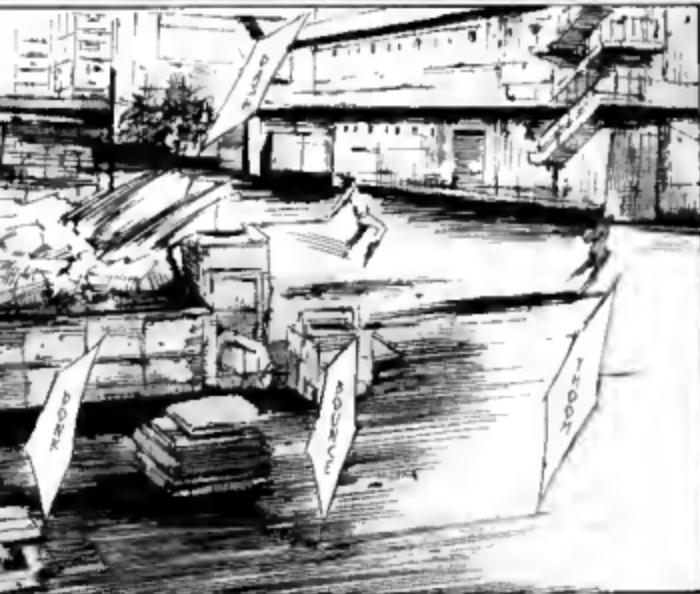


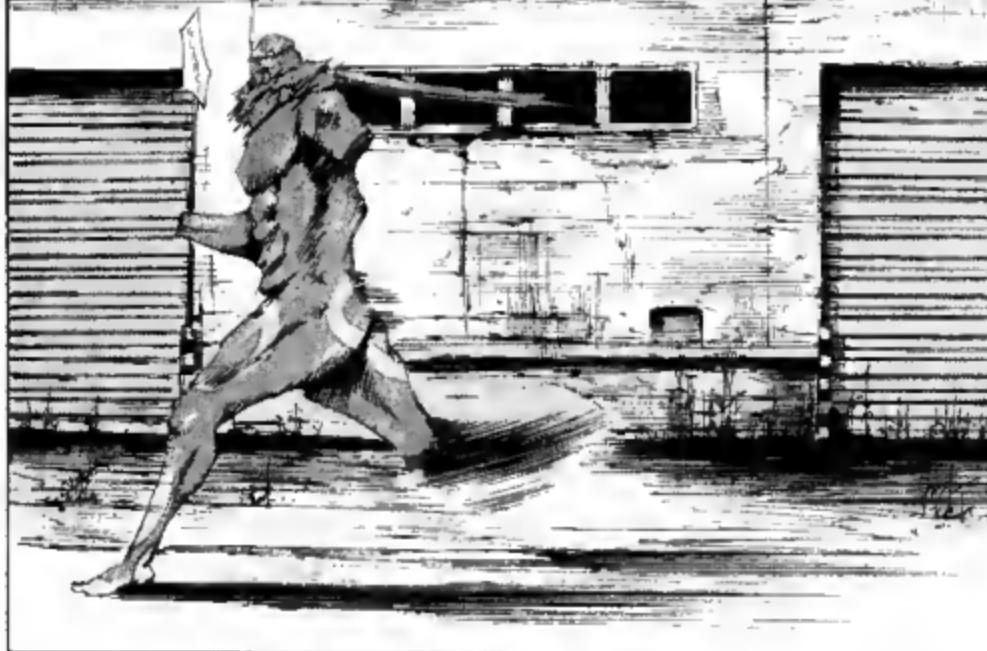
...HE CAN
EITHER STAND
HIS GROUND
AND ACCEPT
DEATH...

...OR HE CAN
TRY TO MAKE
FRIENDS WITH
HIS ENEMY TO
SAVE HIS OWN
SKIN.



BUT THIS
CREATURE
CANNOT MAKE
"FRIENDS." IT
ISN'T EVEN AN
OPTION.







HE
CANNOT
ESCAPE
SHIROU.

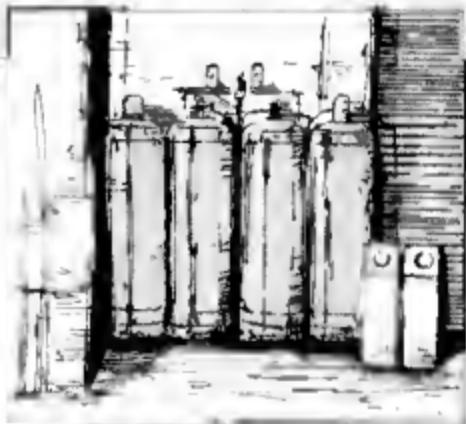
FLOP

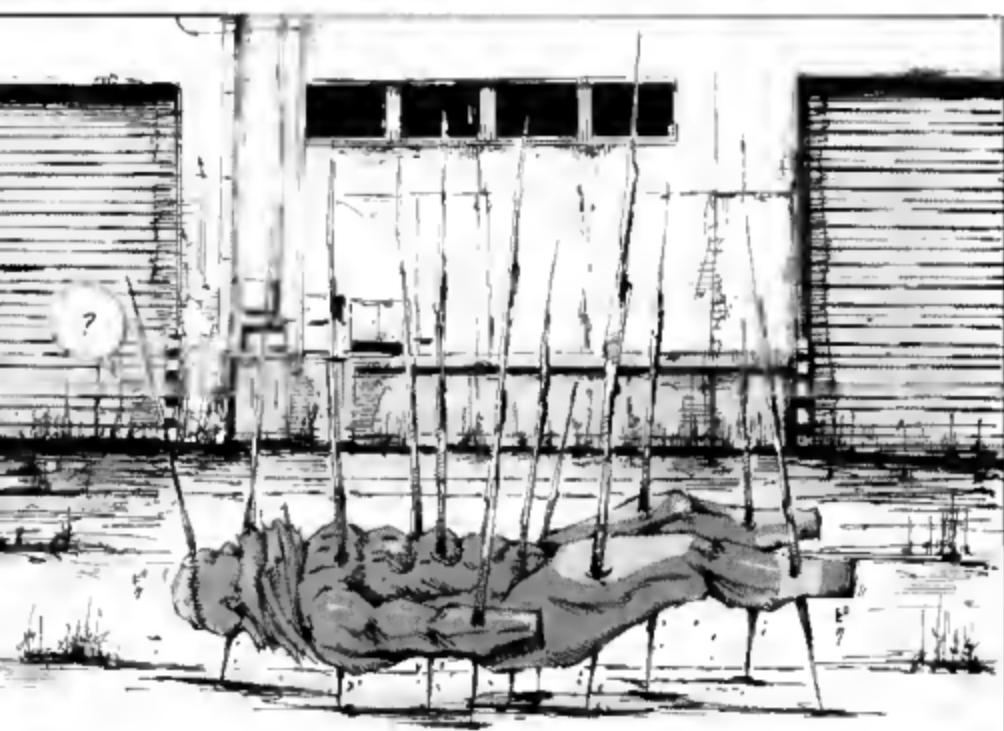
SOOSH

GUSH

















THIS IS
JUST THE
BEGINNING

DEAD END



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STAND
BY.

IT'S WHERE A
FISHING BOAT
WAS SUNK BY
A MYSTERIOUS
EXPLOSION

IN THIRTY
MINUTES, WE'LL
REACH THE
IZUOGASAWARA
DEEP

AT LEAST
IT'S NOT
AS FAR
DOWN AS
MARIANNA'S
TRENCH.

WE'VE
DETECTED THE
WRECKAGE
ON THE SEA
FLOOR AT
ABOUT 9,780
METERS.





WELL,
THAT'S A
CHEERY
THOUGHT.

OUR
CORPSES.

WITH ALL
THE WATER
PRESSURE AND
BREATHING
PROBLEMS

I DON'T
LIKE THE
DARK
VERY
MUCH

DEEP-SEA
FISH FREAK
ME OUT.

COULD WELL
BECOME A
BANQUET FOR
UNDERSEA
PREDATORS

...HOW LONG
DO YOU THINK
YOU CAN STAY
CONSCIOUS?

WHAT
IS?

WEIRD.

WELL... LONG
AS IT STAYS
JUST THAT—
TALK

THAT WE'RE
ABLE TO TALK
ABOUT OUR
OWN DEATHS
LIKE THIS

SOMETHING
BEAUTIFUL
THAT LASTS
FOREVER

MAYBE IT'S
A BEAUTIFUL
THING.
DEATH, I
MEAN.

AND
CHUGGIN
LOTSA
WHISKEY.
WHISKEY
RULES.

NOT
GOOD
EITHER

...AND
SMOKING
CIGARETTES
ON COLD
DAYS

THOSE ARE
BOTH BAD
FOR YOU

YEAH.
LIKE
DRINKING
COFFEE...

HE MUST'VE
HAD A LOT
OF HAPPY
MEMORIES.

THERE WAS THIS
ONE SOLDIER ABOUT
TO BE DISCHARGED
FROM THE MILITARY.
HE WAS SO EXCITED
TO SEE HIS FAMILY
AGAIN.

DOES
ANYONE
REALLY
KNOW?

WHAT IS
HAPPINESS
ANYWAY?

I HEAR IT
FEELS LIKE
YOU'RE
FLOATING

?

I WANT TO
FEEL THAT
WAY ALL THE
TIME.

FIFTEEN
MINUTES.

WELL, NEITHER
OF 'EM ARE
EASY PLACES
TO GET TO.

SOUNDS AS
STRANGE TO
ME AS THE
WORLD AT
THE BOTTOM
OF THE
OCEAN.



IT'S MERELY
SOMETHING
PEOPLE TELL
THEMSELVES
TO SLEEP
EASIER

THAT'S
CRAZY

AT LEAST
YOUR SOUL
GOES ON
AFTER YOU
BITE IT.
RIGHT?

WE'RE
COMPLETELY
OUTMATCHED
BY THEM

WE'RE ALL
GONNA
DIE, YOU
KNOW

AND
OBSOLETE
THINGS ARE
ALWAYS
BURIED WHERE
NOBODY WILL
FIND THEM

IN ANY
CASE
WE'RE
OBSOLETE





Y KNOW, I ONCE THOUGHT
OF MYSELF AS A SHIT-
DWELLING PARASITE.

TO COIN YOUR PHRASE, I'M
"AN ACQUAINTANCE FROM THE
PAST." YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO
SEE ME VERY SOON, AREN'T YOU?

WHAT
WAS YOUR
LIFE LIKE
BEFORE?

S
H
I
R
O
U
?

YUCK. WHAT DO YOU
WANT?

WHO'S THERE?

BECAUSE
WHEN YOU
DO, YOU
DRAIN YOUR
LIFESPAN.

YOU'RE HEADING
TOWARDS AN
EARLY DEATH,
UNDERSTAND?

SHIROU...DO
NOT USE YOUR
POWERS.

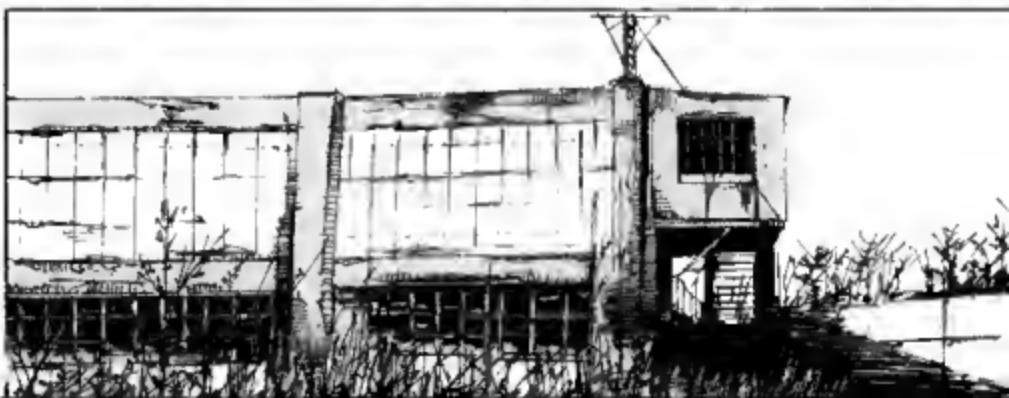
NEVER
MIND.

I WILL NEVER FORGET THE
FILTHY WAY IN WHICH I
ONCE SAW MYSELF.

UNDERSTAND?
UNDERSTANDING'S
NOT A LUXURY I'VE
HAD IN A LONG
TIME!

AND WHY THE HELL NOT.
VOICE IN MY HEAD?!

JUST WHAT IS THIS ALL
ABOUT?!





THERE WAS
A TOXIC
EXPLOSION.

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO MY
FATHER?

SAME
EXPLOSION.
SAME THING.

'CEPT
THERE'S
NO
SCARS
ON HIM.

WHAT
ABOUT
HIM?

HE WAS HIT BY
CONTAMINATED
SHRAPNEL.

SOON
HE'LL BE
DEAD.







THE SOUND
YOU'RE
MAKING IS...
UNPLEASANT.

PLEASE--
DON'T CRY

VERY
UNPLEASANT.



CHAPPA...
WHAT DO
WE DO
NOW?



I'M BEGGING
YOU...



THE
JEWELS
ARE STILL
HERE.

SO I
GUESS
THEY'RE
YOURS

WELL, THAT
OLD MAN
MADE OFF
WITH THE
BAG OF
CASH.

BUT WE'LL
GET THAT
BACK
LATER.





OH, NOTHING
MUCH
JUST THAT
THE WEAK
SHOULD BE
PUNISHED

YOU GOT
THAT
LOOK
WHAT'S
ON YOUR
MIND?

FAIR PLAY'S FOR
PUSSIES. YOU
GIVE ANYBODY
AN INCH...

...AND
YOU'RE
MAGGOT
CHOW. GOT
IT?

AIN'T THAT
THE TRUTH.
THEY BARELY
SQUEAKED A
WORD BEFORE I
KILLED 'EM

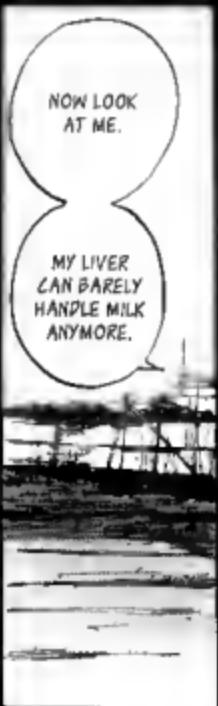
NOW LOOK
AT ME.

MY LIVER
CAN BARELY
HANDLE MILK
ANYMORE.

THERE WAS A
TIME WHEN I'D
BE DRUNK OFF
MY ASS EVERY
MINUTE OF THE
DAY.

LIFE
SURE IS
A SORRY
BITCH,
AIN'T
SHE?

?

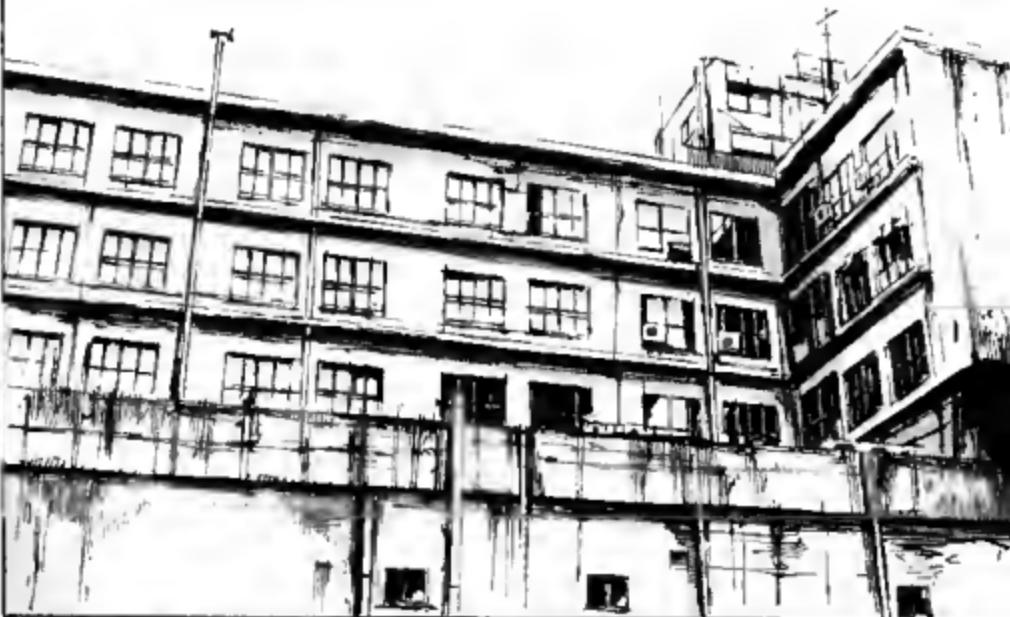




UH,
SHOULDN'T
WE BE
GOING...?













WHERE'S
LUCY?!
WHERE'D
SHE GO?!

WHAT
HAPPENED?
WHAT HAPPENED
THE DAY YOU
DISAPPEARED?!

L-LUCY?















...MOURN
NOT HIS
DEATH.

SHIROU...



NO MATTER WHAT
HAPPENS, I'LL NEVER
HATE YOU....







LET'S
ALWAYS STAY
STRONG

NO MATTER
HOW BAD
THINGS GET...

WHAT?



O-OH
SORRY.

YOU'VE
GOT SNOT
HANGING
OUT OF
YOUR
NOSE

DEAD END



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PART 13 THE FOURTH MAN (?)



ABOUT AN HOUR.

HOW MUCH
SLEEP YOU
USUALLY
GET EVERY
NIGHT?

SAME
HERE.



AFTER YOU
BLEW STITCH
HEAD TO
SMITHEREENS
AND PASSED
OUT...

...THE
POLICE, FIRE
DEPARTMENT--
EVEN THE ARMY--
CAME IN TO
CLEAN UP.

BUT ONE
OTHER GROUP
SHOWED UP
FIRST.



THEY
SCOURED
THE SITE
COLLECTING
STITCH
HEAD'S
REMAINS







UH-HUH.
SURE...

I MEAN, WHY IS
IT NASTY OLD
MEN ALWAYS COP
FEELS ON ME?!

MOMO
HATES
TRAIN!!

FIRST I START
WORRYING THAT
I'M GONNA
BREATHE IN ALL
THEIR NASTY
GERMS--AND
THEN I GET ALL
ITCHY!!

HMM...

THEY'RE A
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
SPECIES
FROM MOMO!
COMPLETELY!!

WASN'T HE
WITH US ON
THE TRAIN
EARLIER?

NANA! THAT
MAN BEHIND
US...!

HE WAS?

I THINK HE'S
A STALKER!
MOMO
DOESN'T--

YEAH! AND
HE WAS
TOTALLY
STARIN' AT
YOU THE
WHOLE TIME,
GIRL!

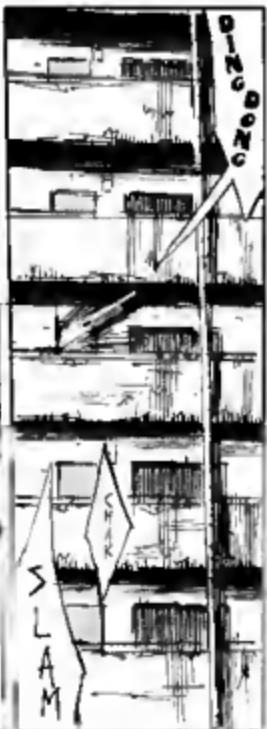
NOW I'M
THINKING
MYSELF INTO A
RASH
AGAIN!

GREAT!!













'CUZ YOUR
BREATH SMELLS
LIKE WEEK-OLD
CABBAGE. I AINT'
FOLLOWIN' THAT.



ANNOY









SO SHE'S A
WAITRESS
NOW?

GIRL SURE
LIKES TO
WORK!

EXCUSE
ME!

BE RIGHT
THERE!





...STALKING
NANA-CHAN?!

ARE YOU
YOUNG MEN...

MAN,
YOU
TALK A
LOT.

SHE LOVES
EVERYBODY. ALL
SHE WANTS IS
TO PLEASE.

LISTEN.
SHE'S A
SWEET
GIRL...

SHE DOESN'T
DESERVE TO BE
HARASSED BY
HOOLIGANS!

... WHO'S
EXTREMELY
PLEASANT
AND GOOD-
NATURED.

IT JUST
KILLS ME TO
THINK THERE'S
FILTH
LIKE YOU
WAITING TO
DEFLOWER
HER!









WHAT'S
YOUR
PROBLEM?!



GOOD.
THEN
YOU CAN
DO THE
RINSING.



THANKS,
BY THE
WAY. IT'S
HARD TO
DO THIS BY
YOURSELF.



HMPH

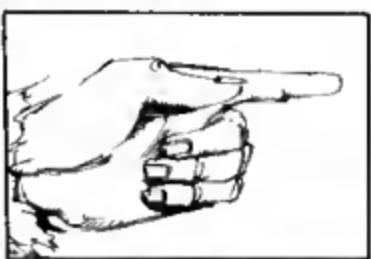


WHY
NOT?



JEEZ,
YOU'RE
ANAL.







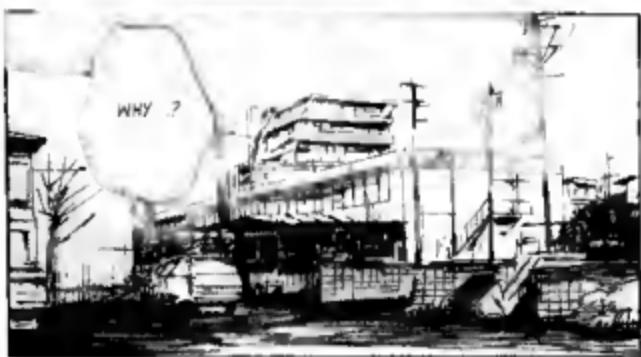


THERE'S A DUDE WITH AN ATTITUDE PROBLEM HANGIN' OUT BY YOUR TOILET, MA'AM











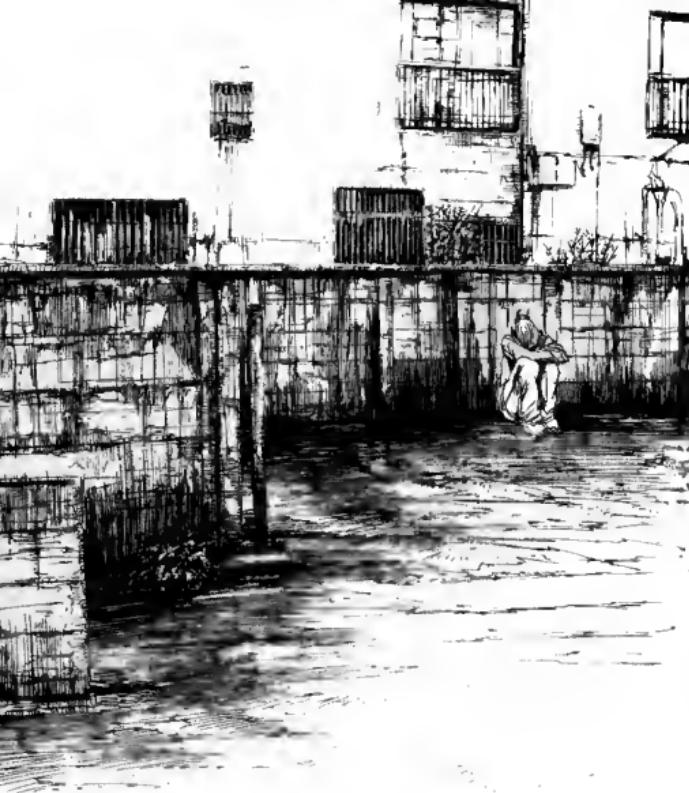






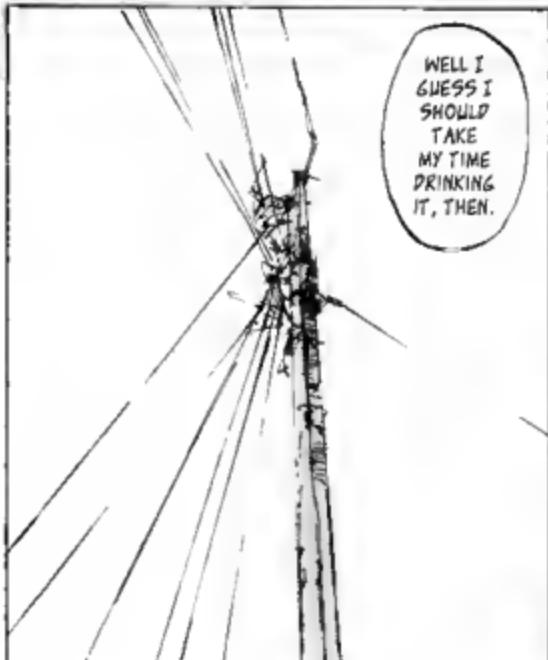














...THAT THE
LIFE YOU'VE
BEEN LIVING
IS OFFICIALLY
OVER.





DEAD END



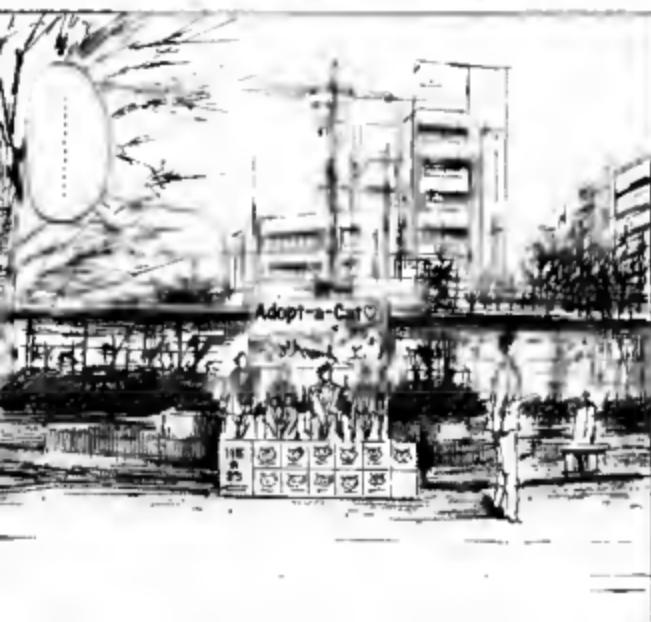
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PART 14 THE SECOND ENEMY







WHO THE HELL WANTS TO ADOPT SOME STRANGER'S FLEA-BITTEN CATS?



I PROMISED HIM I'D HAVE EVERYONE GATHERED IN THREE DAYS



WHAT A WASTE OF TIME.



SIGH... I'M SURROUNDED BY RETARDS.

THE CLOUDS BEHIND IT ARE MOVING. NOT THE BUILDING.

Adopt-a-Cat

WHERE WE GOIN'?

THIS IS A BUST. LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.

MY PLACE IS GOOD AS ANY.

IS THAT...?

SURE. I'M KINDA CHAIRLESS, THOUGH.

YOU COOL WITH THAT?









...I'M SUDDENLY
TERRIFIED.





YOU'RE NOT
TRAPPED OR
CURSED INTO
DOING A DAMN
THING.

AREN'T YOU
OVERREACTING A
BIT?



HELL, NO.

DON'T YOU
EVER GET
LONELY?



SOME PEOPLE
HAVE A LOT
ON THEIR
MINDS.
Y'KNOW. SHIT
TO FIGURE
OUT.



NOT ME,
MAN. I'M A
FREE SOUL.

LIFE'S A STATE OF MIND...AND I LIVE IT PURELY IN THE MOMENT.

WHAT DO THEY GET OUT OF SUCH A WASTEFUL EXISTENCE?

BUT WHO ARE YOU BEING ACCEPTED BY? A WORLD OF IDIOTS WASTING THEIR LIVES HORDING POSSESSIONS THAT QUICKLY BECOME GARBAGE.

I HAPPEN TO THINK BEING ACCEPTED BY A LOT OF PEOPLE IS THE GREATEST PLEASURE IN LIFE



WHAT'S THIS?

I DO MY BEST.

WELL SAID, PARROT.

MY NUMBER ONE PRIORITY IS TO NEVER TURN INTO A HYPOCRITE.





YOU'RE SO
FUNNY,
NANA!

HA
HA
HA
HA!
♥











AND
WHENEVER
SOMEBODY
DOESN'T
LIKE ME...

...I'D
RATHER
THINK OF AS
HOME THAN
HERE.

BUT...AT
THE MOMENT...
I DON'T FEEL
LIKE I BELONG
ANYWHERE.

THERE'S
NO
PLACE...

...WILL
VANISH AT
ANY MOMENT
BEFORE MY
EYES.

I'M
ALWAYS
AFRAID MY
HOME...



I THINK GOING
ALONG WITH
THESE GUYS
COULD HELP
ME FIGURE OUT
WHO I AM.

IF I
SUCCEED...

...THEN I'LL
COME BACK.
THEN I'LL BE
READY TO
MAKE IT MY
TRUE HOME.







DO YOU EVEN
KNOW WHERE
THE LIQUOR
STORE IS?

HEY, YOU...
WAIT FOR
ME.



WELL, IF
YOU'RE
GOING,
THEN SO
AM I?

I'M
COMIN',
TOO.



NANA?





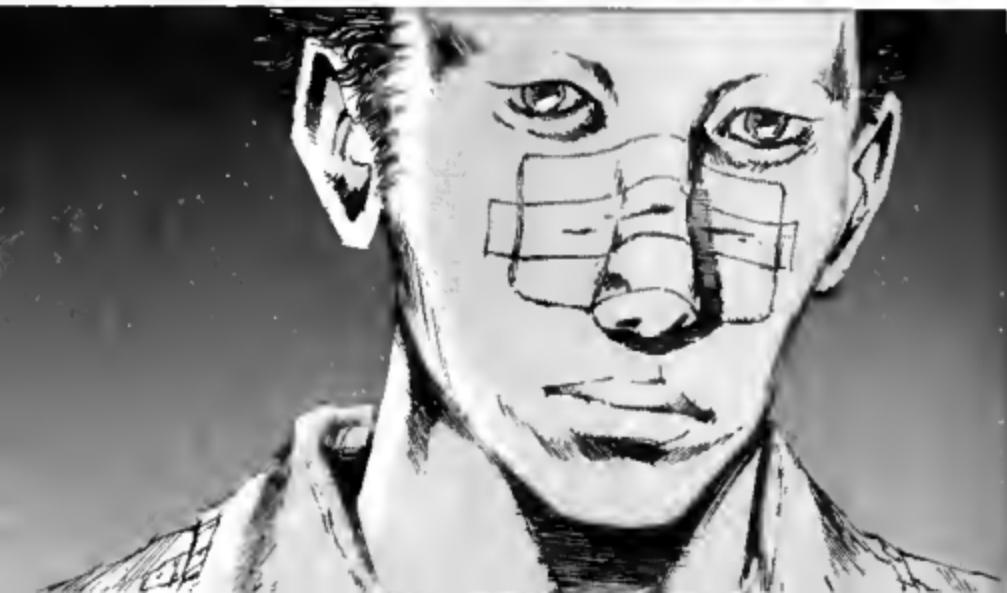




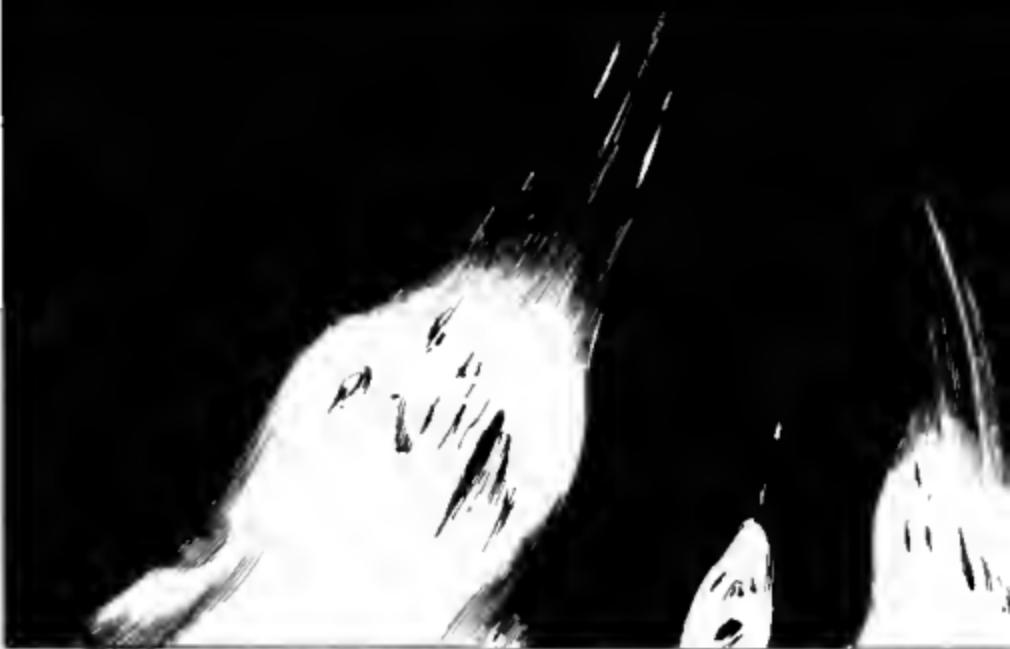


DON'T GIMME
THAT! YOU
KNOW HOW
HARD THIS
HAS BEEN?!















DEAD END



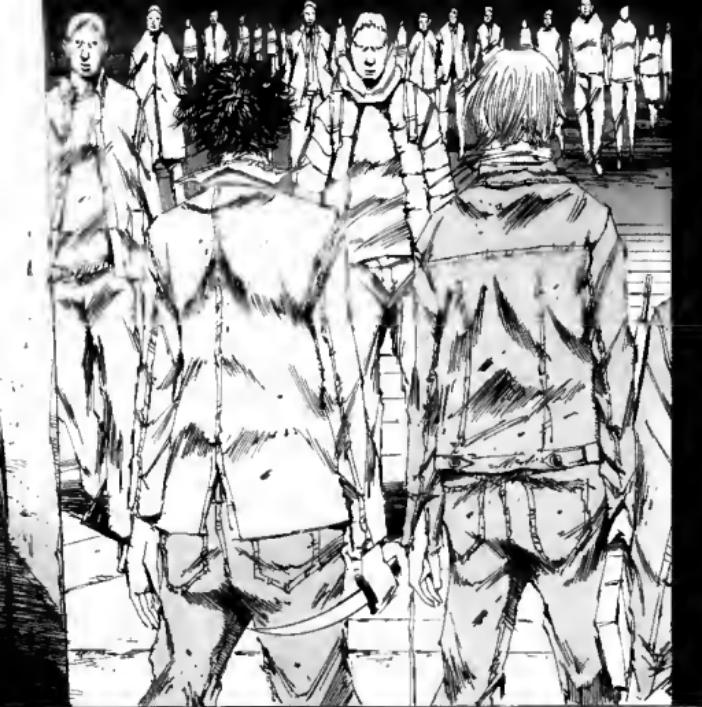
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PART 15 THE LAST MAN

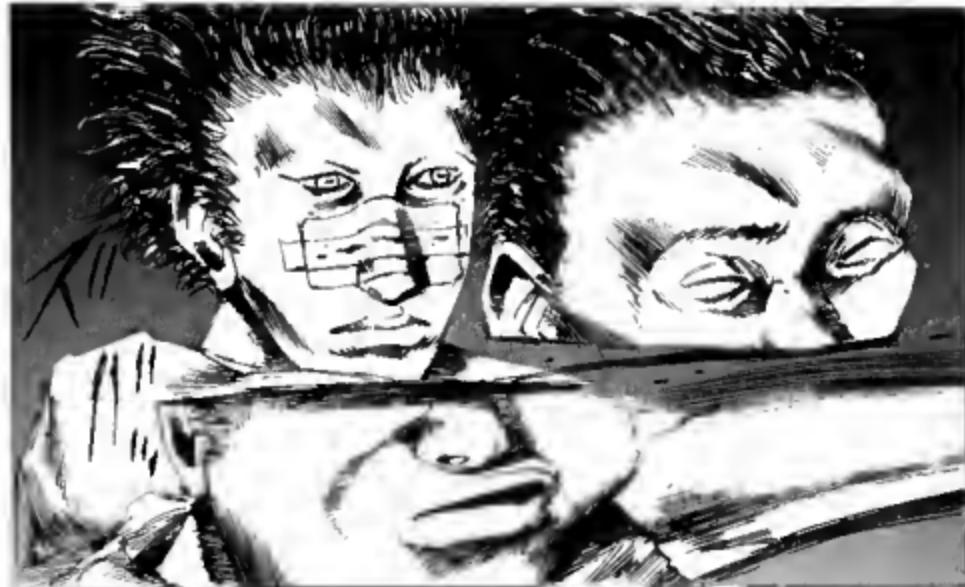












IT'S EITHER
THEM OR
US. HONEY

THESE ARE
NORMAL
PEOPLE!!
SOMETHING'S
FORCING
THEM TO DO
THIS!!

STOP
IT!!

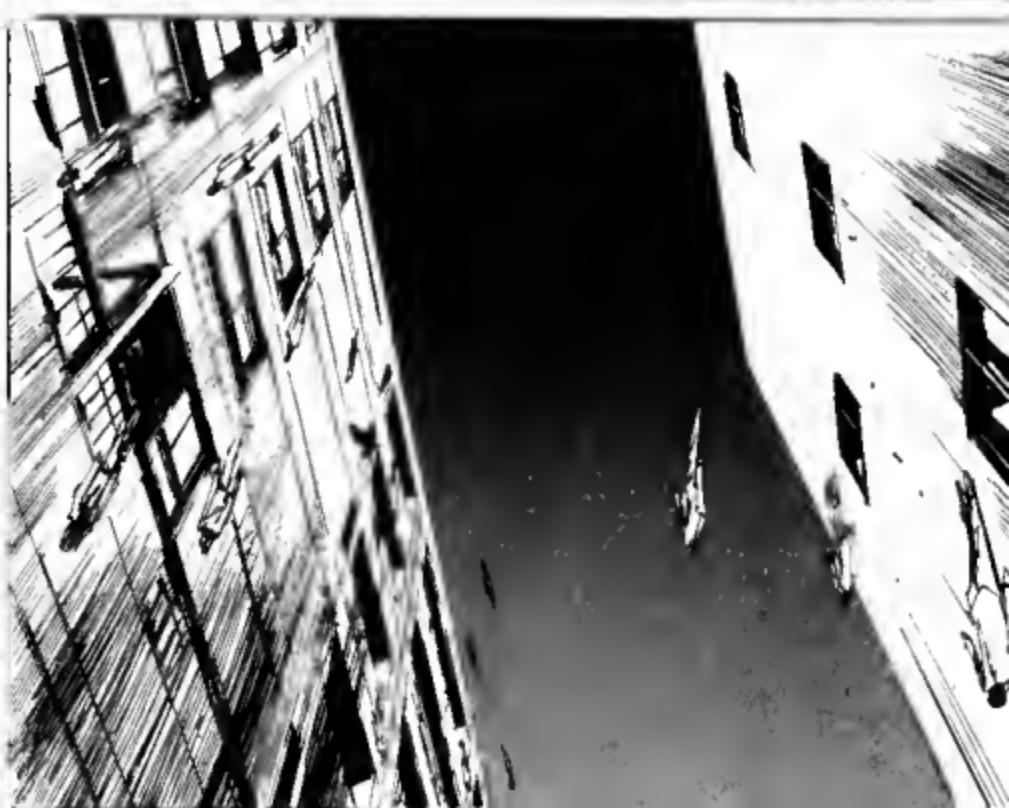
THEY'RE
INNOCENT!!

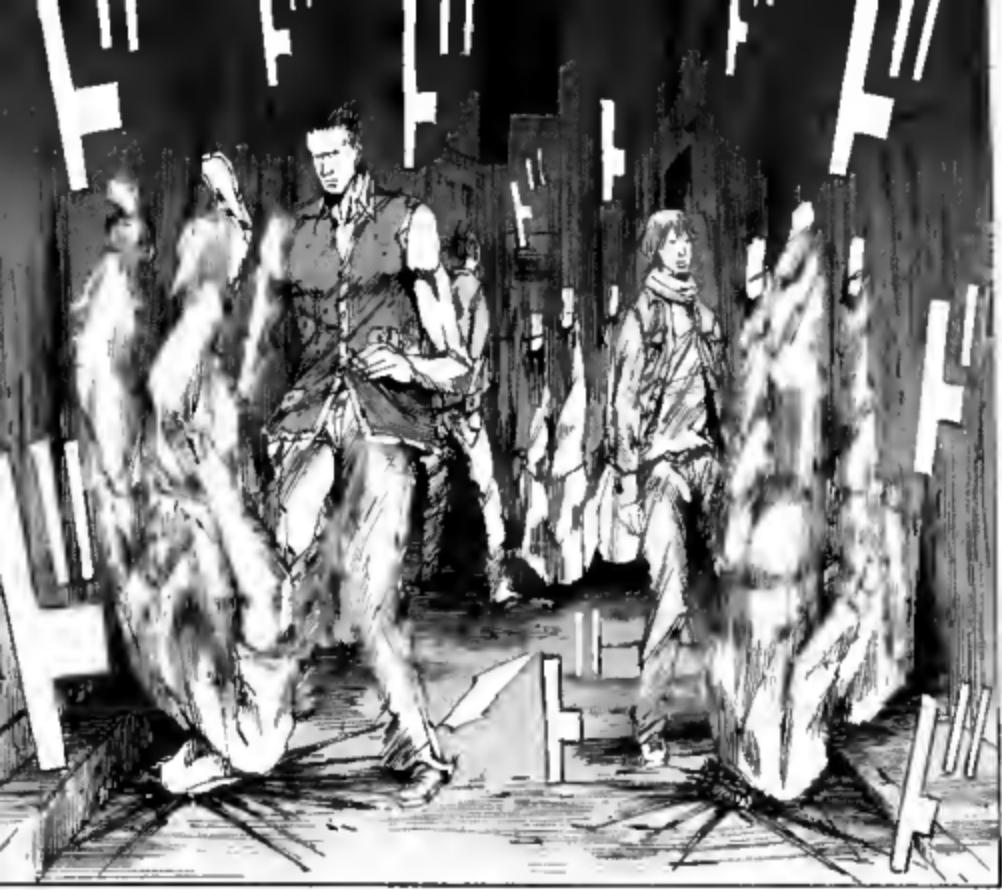
THEY HAVE
FAMILIES!! HOW
DO YOU THINK
THEY'RE GONNA
FEEL?!

SURE...AS
SOON AS
I'M OUT OF
BULLETS.

PARROT!
STOP
SHOOTING!





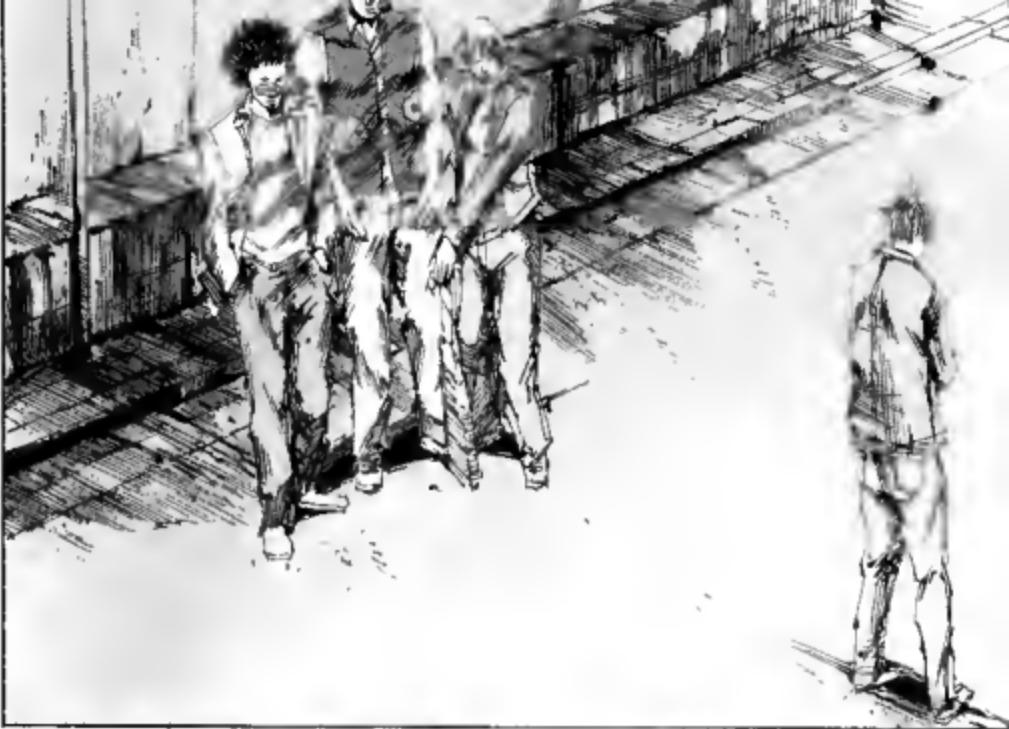


SHIT! IT'S
RAINING MEN—
AND I DON'T MEAN
THAT CRAPPY
SONG!

LET'S GET THE
HELL OUTTA
HERE!!













THESE
ARE SOME
TOUGH
TIMES,
BOY.

YOU THINK
SO?

BELIEVE
ME, IT'S
A RELIEF.
I DON'T
GET MANY
DECENT
FARES
ANYMORE.

LOOK...
PEOPLE ARE
WAITIN' FOR
HANDOUTS
AT THE
MARKET

GUESS
THERE'S
A FOOD
SHORTAGE
AGAIN

WHATEVER

AND THEN
THERE'S
JERKS
LIKE YOU,
BAPMOUTHIN'
EVERYBODY.

THE STREETS
WERE DIRTY
WHEN I GOT
HERE. YOU
THINK I CARE?

YOUR CAB STINKS
OF CIGARETTES
AND CHEAP
COLOGNE.

YOU PUMP
YOUR
ASHTRAY OUT
IN THE STREET
WITHOUT
A SECOND
THOUGHT.

THEY JUST
LOAF
AROUND LIKE
VERMIN.
FOULIN' UP
THE CITY.

THE
STREETS
ARE
CRAWLIN'
WITH
VAGRANTS

HOW DEPRESSING.
IT'S NOT EVEN
WINTER YET,
BUT THE TREES
ALREADY LOOK
NAKED AND DEAD.

I NEVER SEE
ANY CROWS
OR SPARROWS
ANYMORE.

INSTEAD, ALL
I SEE ARE
RATS AND
ROACHES.
THEY'VE TAKEN
OVER.

All residents
in its vicinity
are urged to
stay indoors.
Repeat—do
not venture
outside.

Breaking
news...a
radioactive
leak has been
detected in
the nuclear
power plant in
District XXX.

YOU CAN
LET ME OFF
HERE.

I GOT ENOUGH
TO WORRY
ABOUT WITH
ASSHOLES
BREAKIN' IN MY
HOUSE...BUT
NOW I GOTTA
WORRY ABOUT
RADIATION,
TOO??!

AW, SHIT...!
NOT AGAIN!

OH--AND
KEEP THE
CHANGE.

MARK MY
WORDS--THIS
WHOLE PLANET'S
GONNA BURN
SOON.











...AND I
DIDN'T
CARE.



REN
LEFT...



MY BODY WAS
A ROADMAP
OF PAIN AND
ABUSE.



BUT, THEN ONE
DAY, I WOKE UP
AND REALIZED
JUST HOW MUCH
DAMAGE I'D DONE
TO MYSELF.



...WASN'T
SO EASILY
OBTAINED.

BUT WHAT
I DESIRED
MOST IN
LIFE...

...UNTIL FINAL-
LY, IT CLICKED.
I FIGURED OUT
WHAT I WAS
AFTER.

BUT ALL THE
WHILE, SOME-
THING KEPT
NAGGING AT MY
CONSCIENCE...

I JUST SORT
OF DRIFTED
THROUGH LIFE
AFTER THAT...
ACCOMPLISH-
ING NOTHING.







YOU ALREADY
LIED 'BOUT
BEING
BROKE!











THE FUCK'S
GOIN' ON?!
WHAT DO
YA MEAN.
THERE'S NO
TIME"?!

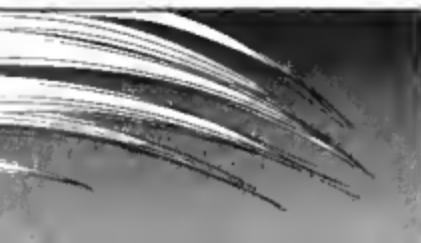


THEN WE'RE
GONNA HOOK
UP WITH MOLE
MAN.

O ANOTHER
ACQUAINTANCE
FROM THE
PAST"

THE LAST
ONE, OUR
FIFTH
FRIEND



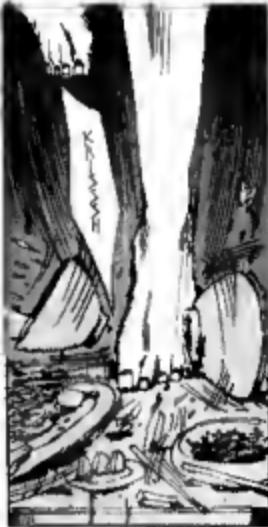














SHIROU...

...I'M SO
GLAD YOU
COULD
MAKE IT.



...

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Are you ready for the climactic, apocalyptic conclusion to Dead End? Can Shirou find the rest of his "acquaintances from the past" before he's hunted down and gutted like an animal? Will he ever be reunited with Lucy? Well, the answer to these questions might very well be "no"—especially if this gun-toting freak with a killer fashion sense has his way!!

IN THE LAST VOLUME OF

DEAD END



AVAILABLE MAY 2006